

**PIPELINE LAYING WITH BENDING AND STRAIGHTENING**

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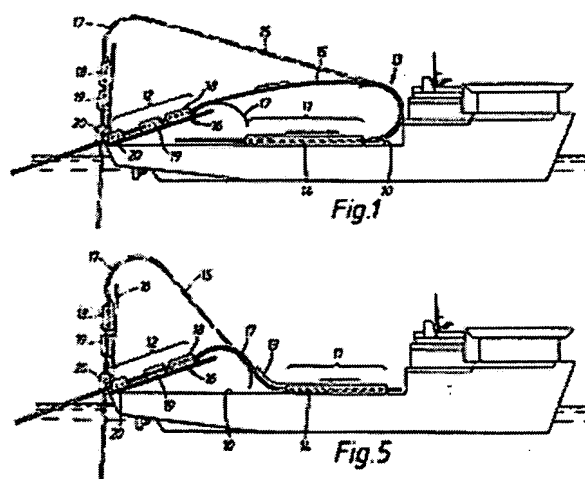
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**Abstract of GB2296956**

A subsea pipe laying system is mounted on a ship and comprises a fabrication station 11 where lengths of pipe are welded together to form a pipeline 15. The Pipeline 15 is then guided by a guide 13 which plastically bends the pipeline 16 to a pipe laying zone 12 where including a straightener 18, which reverse plastically bends the pipeline 16, under the control of a tensioner/clamping arrangement 19 the pipeline 15 is straightened and laid on the sea bed. The straightener 18 and the tensioner/clamps 19 are mounted on a ramp 16 which can be tilted. The pipeline can either be fabricated in a forward direction and then have its direction and movement reversed to lay over the stern (see figure 1) or be fabricated in an aft direction and laid over the stern (see figure 5).

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